A new JFK conspiracy theory: DA fixed case

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Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison — the hero of Oliver Stone's conspiracy movie "JFK" — deliberately suppressed evidence in his attempt to frame an innocent man for the Kennedy assassination, a leading researcher says.

Gerald Posner, author of the best-selling "Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK," said yesterday that Garrison led a conspiracy to pin the 1963 murder of President John F. Kennedy on New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw.

In 1969, Garrison charged Shaw with conspiracy to assassinate the President and tried to link him to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Shaw was acquitted after 45 minutes of jury deliberations.

In an article to be published in Sunday's New York Times Magazine, Posner says the current district attorney, Harry Connick Sr., showed him Garrison's files.

The files contain an interview with lawyer Dean Andrews, who was supposed to have seen a man named Clay Bertrand with Oswald.

Garrison was convinced Clay Shaw and Clay Bertrand were the same man, and he suppressed the lawyer's repeated vows that the two did not resemble each other.

Garrison believed Oswald was bi-sexual and that Shaw, who was gay, helped him murder the President in a "homosexual thrill killing."

Another witness against Shaw admitted to Garrison that he was a junkie, but that information was hidden from Shaw's defense, Posner says.

In Stone's hit movie, Garrison was portrayed by Kevin Costner as a noble searcher for truth battling nefarious government conspirators.

"It is too bad that Garrison, who died in 1992, lived only long enough to see the rehabilitation of his reputation in the Oliver Stone film and did not live to see the release of his own files, which to me, is the lasting legacy of that travesty in New Orleans," Posner told Reuter.